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Title: THE SERPENT GATE

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## ON ACCESSING THE SERPENT GATE

Though it be true that  
most of the Serpent  
Gates are centerpieces of  
the destinations they  
serve, in our fair city  
this is not so. To provide  
a measure of security,  
we have made our Gate  
inaccessible to all those  
who are not given  
permission by the  
Hierophant himself, for it  
is he who holds the keys.  
He doth keep on his  
person the Key of Fire  
and entrusts to an  
advisor (whose identity is  
kept secret to those  
outside the clergy) the  
Key of Ice. When these  
two keys are placed on  
the altar in the Great  
Temple, these two keys  
merge to form the  
blackrock key.

It is with this key that  
the Hierophant opens the  
door to the Serpent  
Gate: a simple brass door  
on the temple's balcony.  
From here the traveler is  
teleported to a grand  
room, wherein he walks on  
graceful bridges to the  
Serpent Gate. I myself  
was once chosen to carry  
the Key of Ice, and I did  
keep it on my person  
even when bathing in the  
bath house. I can assure  
thee that the Hierophant  
kept it close to his  
breast, even during his  
leisurely strolls through

the park...